

Canyon City News.

(THE STAYER.)

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A RE-UNION VISITOR.

D. J. Moffit, editor of the Pilot Point paper, "The Post-Signal," was with us during the reunion, the guest of Rev. J. D. Ballard. Upon his return home he published a long article in his paper concerning our plains country, a portion of which the News here reproduces. Mr. Moffit was here to see for himself and to talk "face to face" with those of our citizens who in times gone by were his old friends and neighbors and so the following excerpts from his paper may be said to rest on the experience of those who know the facts. That portion referring to the products of the country; impressions of the reunion and scenes and doings about Canyon City reads as follows:

"The senior editor and youngest son were among the many excursionists who took in the recent U. C. V. and Cowboy reunion at Canyon City. Amarillo and Hereford were also both included in the visit by most of the excursionists. This was our first visit to the Plains and it was interesting to see such modern towns and evidences of prosperity right in the very spot where, in our early school days, was marked on the maps 'The Great American Desert.' Whether there ever was a great desert on the Texas plains we cannot say, but certainly it is not there today, for nature has carpeted the earth with the nutritious buffalo grass and it is now one of the finest stock countries in the world.

"The air on the plains is delightful and the constant breeze makes it cool even in midsummer and out door life is enjoyable; it is very rare that one cares to sleep throughout the night without extra cover, in fact, it is a fine country for sleeping.

"For the last two or three years wheat and oats have done well. We gathered the following wheat statistics from J. C. Wamble of Hereford who has been running a threshing outfit the past four years. The average yield for the four years previous to this year was 14 bushels per acre. Highest yield 21 bushels. The first year, four years ago, he threshed only 15 bu., last year 8,000. Was not through threshing this year. There are three outfits now in the county. The wheat was pastured during the winter and up to April 15. Oats did well this year, about 35 or 40 bu. per acre. This gives some idea of the development in this line.

"The cattle business is undergoing a change—from the large ranch where cattle were left to shift for themselves the year through, to the smaller stock ranch on which the cattle are carried over the severest winter weather by feed raised on the ranch, in other words to stock-farming. Kafir corn and milo maize is the main crop for feed. This change is being rapidly made and many farmers from the other portions of Texas are buying these lands. Denton and surrounding counties are well represented on the plains.

Lands are going up in value and are selling at \$3.00 to \$5.00 per acre and as high as \$10.00 near the towns.

"That is a treeless country but trees are being planted and there are some orchards already bearing. Among them the cherry seems to be the most thrifty and is said to do remarkably well, berries also do well. By experiment varieties will be found which will do out there, as was the case in this section where it was considered, twenty five or thirty years ago, that fruit could not be successfully grown.

"The present year has been the driest for many years on the plains and crops were suffering greatly, but good rains have fallen within the past ten days which will make a fair crop.

"The reunion at Canyon City was all that could be desired—large crowds, much speech making, roping contests, broncho busting, base ball, etc. It is estimated that 7000 people were there on Cowboy Day. Canyon City is nicely located and is a pretty little town of about 1200 inhabitants. It has a local trade besides does a wholesale and shipping business for a large stretch of territory to the south. Her people are just now rejoicing over securing the location of the Baptist College for the Panhandle. There were six contesting towns and there was great interest all over the Panhandle in the result. The location selected is a beautiful one overlooking the town and valley beyond. Work on the building which is to cost \$40,000 or \$60,000 will begin at an early day. A \$12,000 public school house will be built this fall.

"Rev. J. D. Ballard formerly of this place lives at Canyon City and is pastor of the Baptist church there, and it was the hospitality of his home we enjoyed while there, and were pleased to meet there his brother, W. N. Ballard, of Clarady, Lamar Co., who was our companion during our sight seeing on the plains. The Palo Duro canyon, a rocky gorge which begins within three miles of town, is worthy of mention. The creek of the same name, the upper waters of Red River, which is fed by never failing springs, flows through the canyon the walls of which rise perpendicular reaching the height of several hundred feet, some ten or twelve miles down stream. The Barrel Springs five miles, which we had the pleasure of visiting and the Falls twelve miles distant, are interesting resorts, but as yet in the state of nature. Fish are plentiful in the waters of the canyon."

"SOMEWHERE TO PLAIN-VIEW."

This quotation, appearing elsewhere in the Hale Center Messenger's account of the Plainview railroad proceedings was very suggestive of a "bug under the chip" and now behold, presto! the bug appears. Plainview with the help of the "goober grabber" has hit upon the very sensible plan of pulling Amarillo's leg to the tune of

one hundred thousand dollars. The bait used, is to leave Canyon City out about 8 miles to the west, and the "Queen City of the Plains" is already biting strong as will be seen from the following excerpts clipped from the Amarillo Star:

"Capt. Will A. Miller has just returned from Plainview and from him we learn that the people are very enthusiastic in the matter of the proposed railroad from Plainview to Amarillo or some place in Randall county. Some \$30,000 in money and probably 20 sections of land have been subscribed up to today.

"Capt. Miller thinks the people will get up \$40,000 and 30,000 acres of land, but for Amarillo to be the objective point her people will have to put their shoulders to the wheel, as it will cost something like \$100,000 more to come to Amarillo and bridge the canyon than to go to Canyon City.

"This road would be the greatest feeder that our city could get, as it would be the wholesale point for all lines of business to furnish the lower plains country.

"We would suggest the Commercial Club and Board of Trade take action in the premises and get the people prepared to meet Maj. Gordon upon his return here with some definite propositions."

"The people of Amarillo are again confronted with a money question and The Star would like to let it alone if possible, but duty is always a disagreeable thing and we cannot shrink, so here is at you. Every business man in town knows without telling the value of the southern country trade. Each one knows that as a business proposition it should not be diverted from Amarillo. What they may not realize is, that if the proposed road should be built to a point somewhere in Randall county, presumably Canyon City, and no further, it would cut Amarillo entirely out of the trade that will be built up at the junction with the Santa Fe. While it is true that the wholesale merchants are more directly benefitted than are the retailers, all are vitally interested, and it certainly looks to us that Amarillo will have to come through again for a most important road. They raised the Santa Fe bonus and made money by it, as all will admit, then how much more necessary it is to raise this bonus and thus clinch her position as a commercial center?"

Buie & Rollins have several fine sections of land for sale at bargains.

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Fine rains have fallen here since last week. Fine grass, good forage crops and another excellent cutting of alfalfa are now assured.

No complaint about the boll worm in "these diggins."

There is talk of brick buildings, iron buildings and other sorts of buildings all over town.

Eli Dunlap will move his family into town again as soon as school begins.

Monday, the Public school opens.

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